

# THE SERVICES OF THE ACWL



LEGAL ADVICE ON WTO LAW  
WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT SUPPORT  
TRAINING IN WTO LAW

**ACWL**

Advisory Centre on WTO Law  
Centre Consultatif sur la Législation de l'OMC  
Centro de Asesoría Legal en Asuntos de la OMC

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# INTRODUCTION

The Advisory Centre on WTO Law (ACWL) is an intergovernmental organisation, based in Geneva, which provides free advice and training on all aspects of WTO law, as well as assistance in WTO dispute settlement proceedings, to developing countries and least-developed countries (LDCs) that are Members of, or are in the process of acceding to, the WTO. Over the past 20 years, WTO law has become increasingly complex. While most developed countries have "in-house" legal expertise that enable them to understand WTO law and to participate fully in the WTO legal system, most developing countries and LDCs do not. Thus, the ACWL was created to provide these countries with this legal capacity and to help them to understand fully their rights and obligations under WTO law.

At present, 74 countries - roughly half of the membership of the WTO - are entitled to the services of the ACWL. Since its establishment in 2001, the ACWL has provided these countries with over 1800 legal opinions free of charge, has conducted twelve annual training courses for Geneva-based delegates, and has trained 23 lawyers as part of its Secondment Programme for Government lawyers. In addition, it has assisted developing countries and LDCs in 44 WTO dispute settlement proceedings at modest fees. Thus, the ACWL has become an organisation that pools the collective experience of developing countries and LDCs in WTO legal matters and makes that expertise available to each of those countries.

This guide describes, in the form of questions and answers, how the ACWL is organised and how developing countries and LDCs can best take advantage of its services.

\* Throughout this report, the terms "country" and "developing country" include separate customs territories and countries with economies in transition.

# ABOUT THE ACWL

## WHAT IS THE ACWL?

The ACWL is an intergovernmental organisation that provides advice and training on all matters relating to WTO law and support in WTO dispute settlement proceedings to developing countries and LDCs.

The ACWL is a Geneva-based intergovernmental organisation that was established in 2001 to provide legal advice on WTO law, support in WTO dispute settlement proceedings and training in WTO law to developing countries and LDCs.

The ACWL is independent of the WTO. It was created by an agreement separate from that establishing the WTO and has a membership different from that of the WTO. The ACWL has concluded a seat agreement with Switzerland that accords it privileges and immunities similar to those enjoyed by the WTO and other intergovernmental organisations in Geneva.

The ACWL helps ensure that the benefits of WTO law are shared among all Members of the WTO.

The ACWL was created to ensure that developing countries, and in particular the least developed among them, have a full understanding of their rights and obligations under WTO law and an equal opportunity to defend their interests in WTO dispute settlement proceedings. In 2011, then WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy said that "by ensuring that the legal benefits of the WTO are shared among all Members, the ACWL contributes to the effectiveness of the WTO legal system, in particular its dispute settlement procedures, and to the realisation of the WTO's development objectives."

## WHO ADMINISTERS AND FINANCES THE ACWL?

**The ACWL is co-administered by its developed and developing country Members.**

The institutional structure of the ACWL consists of the General Assembly, the Management Board and the Executive Director. The General Assembly consists of the representatives of the Members of the ACWL and of the LDCs entitled to the services of the ACWL. It oversees the functioning of the ACWL, monitors the ACWL's finances and adopts the annual budget. The ACWL currently has 11 developed country Members and 32 developing country Members.

The Management Board consists of six persons serving in their personal capacities: three nominated by the developing country Members, two by the developed country Members and one by the LDCs. In addition, the Executive Director serves *ex officio* on the board. The Management Board takes decisions necessary to ensure the efficient and effective operation of the ACWL, oversees the management of the ACWL Endowment Fund, and reports to the General Assembly.

The Executive Director manages the day-to-day operations of the ACWL and represents it externally.

**The ACWL is co-financed by its developed and developing country Members.**

The ACWL's sources of financing are the revenues from its Endowment Fund, fees levied for support in dispute settlement proceedings, and voluntary contributions. The Endowment Fund was created from the contributions of both the developed and the developing country Members. At present, the ACWL's annual budgets are financed by voluntary contributions from the developed country Members. The revenues from the Endowment Fund and the fees for dispute settlement support accrue to the Endowment Fund.

# WHO IS ENTITLED TO THE SERVICES OF THE ACWL?

Developing countries that have become Members of the ACWL are entitled to its services.

Developing countries that have become Members of the ACWL and have contributed to its Endowment Fund are entitled to the services provided by the ACWL. To determine their contributions to the Endowment Fund on accession and the fees charged for support in dispute settlement proceedings, developing country Members are divided into membership categories A, B and C in accordance with their share of world trade and per capita income. The 32 developing countries that have become ACWL Members to date include approximately two thirds of the developing countries that have been a complainant or respondent in WTO dispute settlement proceedings.

## Developing country Members of the ACWL

<b>CATEGORY A</b>	CHINESE TAIPEI HONG KONG, CHINA
<b>CATEGORY B</b>	BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA COLOMBIA EGYPT INDIA INDONESIA MAURITIUS OMAN PAKISTAN PHILIPPINES SEYCHELLES THAILAND TURKEY URUGUAY VIET NAM
<b>CATEGORY C</b>	BOLIVIA COSTA RICA CUBA DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ECUADOR EL SALVADOR GUATEMALA HONDURAS JORDAN KENYA NICARAGUA PANAMA PARAGUAY PERU SRI LANKA TUNISIA



Any Member of the WTO and any State or customs territory in the process of acceding to the WTO may request to become a Member of the ACWL.

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Any Member of the WTO and any State or customs territory in the process of acceding to the WTO may request to become a Member of the ACWL. The ACWL has adopted decision-making procedures for accessions that permit the approval of the Protocol of Accession in as little as four weeks. A protocol of accession to the ACWL sets out the terms of accession, including the one-time amount that the acceding country contributes to the ACWL. For a sample Protocol of Accession, please go to <http://www.acwl.ch/e/members/accessions.html>

Developing countries' one-time contributions on accession are as follows: Category A: CHF486,000; Category B: CHF162,000; Category C: CHF81,000. These contributions may be paid in annual instalments over a period of five years.

LDCs that are Members of the WTO or in the process of acceding to the WTO are entitled to the services of the ACWL without having to become Members of the ACWL.

LDCs that are Members of the WTO or in the process of acceding to the WTO are entitled to the services of the ACWL without having to become Members of the ACWL or having to contribute to the Endowment Fund (42 at present).

**LDCs entitled to the services of the ACWL (42)**

**MEMBERS OF THE WTO (34)**

ANGOLA  
BANGLADESH  
BENIN  
BURKINA FASO  
BURUNDI  
CAMBODIA  
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC  
CHAD  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC  
OF THE CONGO  
DJIBOUTI  
THE GAMBIA  
GUINEA  
GUINEA-BISSAU  
HAITI  
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC  
REPUBLIC  
LESOTHO  
MADAGASCAR  
MALAWI  
MALI  
MAURITANIA  
MOZAMBIQUE  
MYANMAR  
NEPAL  
NIGER  
RWANDA  
SENEGAL  
SIERRA LEONE  
SOLOMON ISLANDS  
TOGO  
UGANDA  
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
VANUATU  
YEMEN  
ZAMBIA

**IN THE PROCESS OF  
ACCEDING TO THE WTO (8)**

AFGHANISTAN  
BHUTAN  
COMOROS  
EQUATORIAL GUINEA  
ETHIOPIA  
LIBERIA  
SAO TOMÉ AND PRINCIPE  
SUDAN

### WHAT IS THE SCOPE OF THE ACWL'S ADVISORY ACTIVITIES?

The ACWL provides free advice on all issues of WTO law.

The ACWL gives free advice on all procedural and substantive issues arising under WTO law. The opinions provided by the ACWL can be divided into three categories:

- > legal advice concerning general issues of law and measures taken or contemplated by the developing country or LDC seeking the advice, including proposed legislation. This advice helps countries to realise their trade policy objectives in a manner consistent with WTO law;
- > legal advice concerning measures that the developing country or LDC seeking the advice considers challenging under the WTO dispute settlement procedures. In these instances, the ACWL provides an assessment of the chances of prevailing in a dispute settlement proceeding; and
- > legal advice related to matters that arise on a day-to-day basis or in WTO negotiations. In these cases, the ACWL aims to provide a full understanding of the legal implications of the issues and proposals arising.

Each legal opinion describes the legal question or measure examined and where applicable presents a legal assessment of that measure. Where appropriate, the opinion will include an analysis of the legal arguments that can be advanced in support of alternative positions and an evaluation of the strength of these arguments.

The ACWL's institutional and financial structure has been designed to ensure that developing countries and LDCs can act on matters related to WTO law



with the benefit of an independent expert assessment of their legal options. The independence of the ACWL is particularly important for governments that seek a realistic assessment of their chances of prevailing in a dispute settlement proceeding, to convince another WTO Member to bring a measure into conformity with WTO law, or to resolve an internal debate on the consistency of a proposed measure of their own with WTO law.

The ACWL has a "Technical Expertise Trust Fund" that can be used to finance part of the cost of any technical expertise or expert opinions necessary to prepare a legal opinion requested by a developing country Member or LDC (see page 17).

### **In giving legal advice, the ACWL must remain within its mandate.**

The ACWL's mandate is limited to giving advice to developing countries and LDCs. It cannot, therefore, respond to requests for advice by developed countries, non-governmental organisations, private entities within a developing country or groupings of developing countries, as such.

The ACWL's mandate is limited to giving legal advice. While it is not, therefore, able to provide advice on negotiating strategies or other political issues, the ACWL may give advice on the legal implications of negotiating proposals and identify the procedures for incorporating negotiating proposals into WTO law.

The ACWL's mandate is limited to giving advice on WTO law. Consequently, it cannot give advice on legal issues arising exclusively under non-WTO law.

## WHAT ARE THE PROCEDURES FOR REQUESTING LEGAL ADVICE?

### *A request should be made or confirmed in writing.*

Developing country Members and LDCs may submit requests for legal advice in writing, by telephone or in person. A request for a legal opinion must be made by an official authorised to act on behalf of his or her country in matters relating to the WTO. It may be addressed to any of the ACWL's lawyers. If a Member or LDC makes an oral request for a written legal opinion, it should confirm the request in writing.

Legal opinions are normally provided in English. However, Members and LDCs may request opinions in French or Spanish. They may also request that their meetings with the ACWL be held in French or Spanish.

### *The request should identify the issue as clearly as possible.*

A request for legal advice should relate to a specific legal issue of direct concern to the requesting country. Where applicable, the request should identify the measure giving rise to the legal problem and, to the extent possible, the options that are being considered.

The request for advice should be as detailed and specific as possible and identify clearly the measures at issue. If the request concerns a matter set out in a law, regulation or other legal instrument, whether already adopted or merely proposed, a copy of that instrument should be provided. The ACWL is ready to assist Members and LDCs in identifying the legal claims to which a matter gives rise and the range of facts that need to be demonstrated to support those claims.

## HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE THE ACWL TO PREPARE LEGAL OPINIONS?

*Within two days of receiving a request, the ACWL informs the requesting country when it expects to complete the legal opinion.*

As soon as possible, and always within two working days, the ACWL confirms by email or fax the receipt of any written request for a legal opinion. This confirmation will normally indicate the time frame within which the ACWL expects to complete the opinion. If the requesting country does not receive any confirmation, it should immediately contact the ACWL.

*The ACWL provides its opinions as quickly as possible.*

The ACWL may be able to provide an opinion on a simple issue or on an issue that it has previously examined within a few days. It may require a longer period to examine new or complex issues. In cases in which the facts made available do not permit the preparation of a final opinion, the ACWL may provide an interim or provisional opinion or it may request the submission of additional facts before finalising an opinion. If the requesting country needs an opinion before a specified date, the ACWL will make its best efforts to provide it before that date.



## WHAT ARE THE ACWL'S RULES ON CONFIDENTIALITY?

**ACWL staff members are subject to the same rules on confidentiality as WTO staff members that assist panels and the Appellate Body.**

The ACWL's legal opinions are provided only to the officials of the requesting country. The ACWL does not reveal the identity of the country that seeks its advice nor the nature of the advice sought. All ACWL staff members, including administrative personnel, sign an oath of confidentiality similar to that signed by WTO staff members assisting panels and the Appellate Body.

The ACWL may have to refuse a request for a legal opinion or support in a dispute settlement proceeding involving a measure on which it has previously provided a legal opinion if such support would give rise to a conflict of interest. In that case, it may have to disclose that an opinion related to the matter has been provided to another country. Even in these circumstances, the nature and content of the opinion would remain confidential.

# SUPPORT IN DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROCEEDINGS

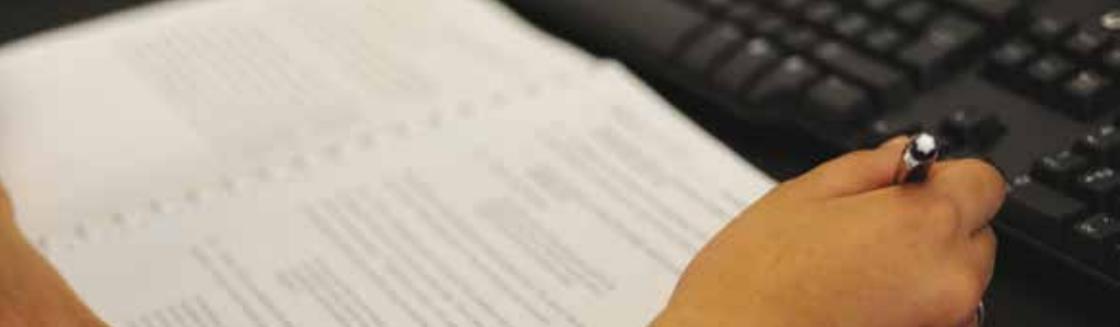
## HOW DOES THE ACWL PROVIDE SUPPORT IN WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROCEEDINGS?

The ACWL provides support in WTO panel, Appellate Body and implementation proceedings and in reaching mutually-agreed solutions.

The ACWL assists countries in all stages of the WTO's regular panel and Appellate Body proceedings as complainants, respondents and third parties.

This support includes the following:

- > initial assessment and preparation of the case;
- > drafting consultation requests;
- > drafting questions or answers to questions in preparation for consultations;
- > drafting requests for the establishment of a panel and statements for meetings of the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB);
- > advising on the composition of the panel and the submission of a request to the Director-General to compose the panel;
- > drafting panel submissions and responses to written questions from panels and other parties to the proceedings;
- > advocacy at panel meetings, including answering questions from panels and parties at the meetings; and
- > drafting notices of appeal and notices of other appeal, Appellate Body submissions and advocacy during Appellate Body hearings, including responding to questions.



The ACWL also provides support during the implementation phase of a dispute, including in arbitrations to determine the reasonable period of time for implementation under Article 21.3(c) of the DSU; panel proceedings to determine compliance with the recommendations and rulings of the DSB under Article 21.5 of the DSU; arbitration proceedings to determine the level of suspension of concessions under Article 22.6 of the DSU; and in negotiations of mutually-agreed solutions.

The ACWL encourages the countries that it assists in dispute settlement proceedings to nominate a legal officer in its mission in Geneva or in its capital to work with the ACWL's lawyers on the case. This facilitates communication between the ACWL and government officials involved in the case. "Hands-on" participation in a dispute settlement proceeding can also be a valuable experience for the legal officer and an important means of building capacity.

Developing countries and LDCs may request that the ACWL provide them with support in dispute settlement proceedings in English, French or Spanish. However, as the WTO dispute settlement proceedings are normally conducted in English and the ACWL's working language is English, Members have generally requested support in English.

### **The ACWL provides support in alternative dispute settlement proceedings within the framework of the WTO.**

The ACWL also provides assistance in other types of dispute settlement proceedings, including good offices, conciliation, mediation and arbitration proceedings conducted pursuant to Articles 5 and 25 of the DSU.

## WHEN SHOULD COUNTRIES REQUEST SUPPORT IN WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROCEEDINGS?

**A request for support should be made well in advance of the decision to initiate the dispute settlement proceedings.**

WTO dispute settlement proceedings are initiated through a formal request for consultations under the DSU. A panel is not authorised to rule on a matter on which consultations were not requested. Consequently, it is essential that the request for consultations adequately identify all measures and all legal claims at issue. To ensure that all matters it might want to raise in the panel proceedings are reflected in that request, a WTO Member contemplating a complaint must examine all relevant facts and the full range of possible legal claims before submitting its request for consultations. It is, therefore, advisable to seek a legal opinion on the matter from the ACWL well in advance of the decision to initiate dispute settlement proceedings.

**A country that expects to receive or has received a formal request for consultations under the DSU should submit its request for support without delay.**

A country that receives a request for consultations under the DSU from another WTO Member is obliged to enter into the consultations within a period of no more than 30 days. If the consultations fail to settle the dispute within 60 days, the complainant may request the establishment of a panel. To ensure that it benefits from a thorough examination of all its procedural options and legal defences, a country should request legal support by the ACWL as soon as it learns that another Member of the WTO is considering initiating a dispute settlement proceeding against it.

## HOW SHOULD COUNTRIES REQUEST SUPPORT IN WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROCEEDINGS?

*The request for support should be made or confirmed in writing.*

Requests for the ACWL's support must be made by officials authorised to act on behalf of their countries in matters relating to the WTO. It may be addressed to any of the ACWL's lawyers. If a request is made orally, it should subsequently be confirmed in writing.

*A request for support will entail charges only if WTO dispute settlement proceedings are subsequently initiated.*

The initial evaluation of a possible complaint is provided free of charge. The time that the staff of the ACWL spends in examining the matter is subject to the ACWL's charges for support in dispute settlement proceedings only if the Member or LDC concerned subsequently decides to initiate proceedings by submitting a formal request for consultations.

## HOW DOES THE ACWL ASSIST IN THE PREPARATION OF THE CASE?

The ACWL provides advice on the facts that a party to a WTO dispute settlement proceeding needs to prove to prevail in the proceeding.

A party to a WTO dispute settlement proceeding must prove the facts on which it bases its claims or defences. The ACWL assists its developing country Members and LDCs in identifying the facts they need to establish in support of their claims and defences. It also assists them in the preparation of exhibits to be submitted to panels, including the translation of documents into the language in which the panel proceeding is conducted.

The ACWL finances part of the cost of technical expertise needed by a party to a WTO dispute settlement proceeding.

The ACWL has a Technical Expertise Trust Fund on which it can draw to finance part of the cost of technical expertise needed by a party to a WTO dispute settlement proceeding to develop facts necessary to its case. The Fund is mainly intended to pay for experts in fact-intensive dispute settlement proceedings, such as those involving the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures or the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade. The Technical Expertise Trust Fund can also be used to finance part of the cost of technical expertise needed to prepare a legal opinion requested by a developing country Member or LDC.

The portion of the cost of technical expertise that can be financed through this Fund is 90 per cent for LDCs, 60 per cent for Category C Members, 40 per cent for Category B Members and 20 per cent for Category A Members.

## HOW DOES THE ACWL ADDRESS CONFLICTS OF INTEREST?

The ACWL can assist two countries in the same proceeding only if they share the same objective.

The ACWL can provide support to two parties involved in the same proceeding if they pursue the same objective, for instance as co-complainants. ACWL lawyers would, however, face a conflict of interest if they were to give legal advice on a measure to different countries pursuing different objectives. In dispute settlement proceedings between two countries entitled to the services of the ACWL, therefore, ACWL lawyers normally provide support to the party in the proceeding that first requests its advice on the measure at issue. The ACWL provides support to the other party to the proceeding through external legal counsel selected from the ACWL's Roster of External Counsel.

If there is a conflict of interest, the ACWL provides its support through external counsel.

The ACWL has established a Roster of External Counsel consisting of experienced law firms and individuals that have agreed to represent developing countries and LDCs at reduced rates when the ACWL cannot do so because of a conflict of interest. The party to the proceeding that cannot be served by the ACWL's staff selects its own counsel from the Roster. The selected counsel provides the same support that the ACWL would have provided if the conflict of interest had not arisen.

The ACWL finances the difference between the fees charged by the external counsel and the fees that the ACWL would have charged for the same services. The Roster is posted on the ACWL's website. Additional information on the Roster is available at the premises of the ACWL.

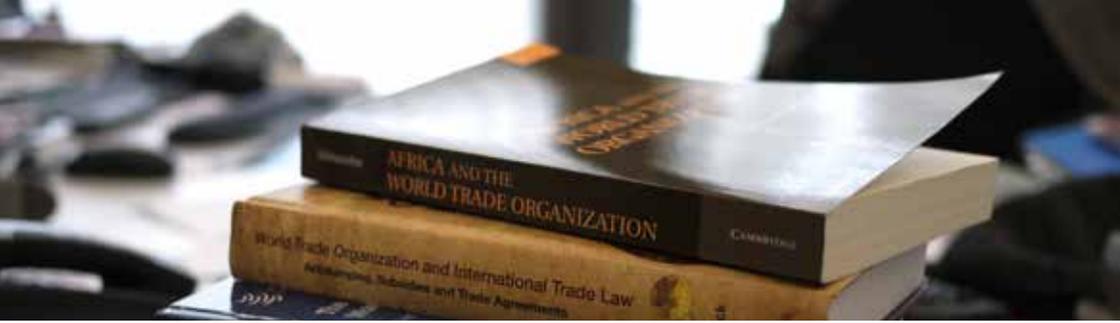
## HOW MUCH DOES THE ACWL CHARGE FOR SUPPORT IN WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROCEEDINGS?

The ACWL's charges are set at levels that take into account the financial constraints of its Members and LDCs.

The ACWL charges modest fees for support in dispute settlement proceedings, based on hourly rates and a time budget for each stage of the proceeding. The ACWL's charges for support in WTO dispute settlement proceedings are CHF162 per hour for Category C Members, CHF243 per hour for Category B Members and CHF324 per hour for Category A Members. LDCs pay CHF40 per hour. In cases in which the ACWL provides support to one of the parties to the proceeding through external legal counsel, the above fees are increased by 20 per cent.

The maximum charges for ACWL support in dispute settlement proceedings can be calculated in advance.

The ACWL has established a schedule of the maximum fees that it may charge for assistance in each of the main phases of the WTO dispute settlement proceedings (consultations, panel proceedings and Appellate Body proceedings), for each of the four categories of countries entitled to the services of the ACWL as complainants, respondents and third parties. This schedule is contained in the table on the next page. These maximum fees were derived by multiplying the ACWL's hourly rates for services to each category of country by the number of hours for each procedural step in each phase of the process. Thus, a country using the ACWL's services in a dispute settlement proceeding knows in advance the maximum fees it may have to pay.



The maximum fees indicated in the schedule are charged only if all of the procedural steps involved in each phase of the dispute have actually taken place. In cases in which the ACWL provides support to one of the parties to the proceeding through external legal counsel, the maximum charges are 20 per cent higher than indicated in the tables.

If two or more Members of the ACWL or LDCs bring a joint complaint under the WTO dispute settlement procedures and request the ACWL to prepare joint submissions to the WTO dispute settlement bodies, the fees are allocated proportionately among the countries using the services of the ACWL.

**Maximum charges for a complainant or respondent (in Swiss francs)**

	CONSULTATIONS	PANEL PROCEEDINGS	APPELLATE BODY PROCEEDINGS	TOTAL
CATEGORY A	47,628	143,856	85,212	276,696
CATEGORY B	35,721	107,892	63,909	207,522
CATEGORY C	23,814	71,928	42,606	138,348
LDC	5,880	17,760	10,520	34,160

**Maximum charges for a third party (in Swiss francs)**

	PANEL PROCEEDINGS	APPELLATE BODY PROCEEDINGS	TOTAL
CATEGORY A	20,736	28,836	49,572
CATEGORY B	15,552	21,627	37,179
CATEGORY C	10,368	14,418	24,786
LDC*	2,560	3,560	6,120

\* May be provided free of charge under certain conditions.



## Support for LDCs that participate in WTO dispute settlement proceedings as third parties may be provided free of charge.

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An increasing number of WTO Members participate in WTO dispute settlement proceedings as third parties to familiarise themselves with the WTO's dispute settlement practice and jurisprudence. Thus far, however, LDCs have rarely made use of this opportunity. Against this background, the ACWL General Assembly has decided that any LDC that has reserved its right to participate in a WTO panel proceeding as a third party may request the ACWL to assist it free of charge in that proceeding and any subsequent Appellate Body proceeding.

The request must be made in writing by a person authorised to represent the LDC in the WTO and must indicate the name(s) of the person(s) from the LDC that will participate in the preparation of submissions and attend hearings. The Executive Director may approve the request if the support by the ACWL is likely to assist the LDC in building its capacity in WTO law, if there is no conflict of interest that would prevent the ACWL's staff from providing support to the LDC and if providing the support would cause neither financial nor operational problems for the ACWL.

# TRAINING

## WHAT TRAINING IN WTO LAW DOES THE ACWL OFFER?

The ACWL offers a training programme on WTO law and procedures.

The ACWL's main training programme comprises three annual courses. The first covers the basic principles of WTO law, the second the WTO agreements relating to trade remedies, trade in services and trade-related intellectual property rights, and the third the WTO dispute settlement procedures.

Each course is conducted over eight months. The sessions begin in October and end in May of the following year. Sessions take place at the premises of the ACWL on Thursdays from 13:00-15:00 hours.

Participants with a satisfactory attendance record in a given year are awarded a Certificate of Training. In addition, the ACWL offers participants that have completed the course the opportunity to take a written examination on the topics taught during the course. The course is taught by the staff of the ACWL. They offer participants an analysis of WTO law based on their own practical experience.

The ACWL also conducts supplementary sessions for delegates who are unable to attend a regularly-scheduled session or have detailed queries on a topic covered in the course. The supplementary sessions are intended primarily for delegates from LDCs and other countries with small missions in Geneva.



## The ACWL offers secondments to government lawyers from developing country Members of the ACWL and from LDCs.

Through its Secondment Programme for Trade Lawyers, the ACWL provides government lawyers entrusted with functions relating to the legal aspects of trade policy the opportunity to broaden their professional experience in the field of WTO law by joining the ACWL's staff for a nine-month term starting in mid-September and ending in mid-June of the following year. The Programme aims to provide the participants with both theoretical training and practical experience in WTO law as well as an opportunity to participate actively in WTO dispute settlement proceedings. The participants are fully engaged in the ACWL's day-to-day activities. They assist the ACWL's lawyers in preparing legal opinions and providing legal support in dispute settlement proceedings. They also follow the ACWL's regular courses and seminars. Upon completion of the Programme, the participants are expected to resume their employment with their government.

Every February, the ACWL invites its developing country Members and LDCs to nominate candidates for the Programme. Short-listed candidates are invited to Geneva for interviews and a written test. The selected participants have the duties and obligations of regular staff members of the ACWL and must therefore regulate their conduct in accordance with the Staff Regulations and Rules and the Standards of Conduct of the ACWL. In particular, the participants are asked to sign the confidentiality oath that applies to all staff members of the ACWL. The ACWL pays each participant a monthly salary, the airfare to and from Geneva, an installation/removal grant, and provides health and accident insurance. Further details on the Programme are posted on the ACWL's website.

To date, a total of 23 government lawyers from 13 developing countries and six LDCs have participated in the Secondment Programme for Trade Lawyers.



## The ACWL offers occasional seminars on issues of topical interest.

From time to time, the ACWL organises seminars on issues of WTO law and jurisprudence that are of particular interest to the ACWL's developing country Members and LDCs. Thus, it has offered seminars on the methods to give legal effect to the results of WTO trade negotiations, on dumping margin calculations, on the relationship between the international monetary order and WTO law, and on several important rulings of the Appellate Body. The ACWL welcomes proposals on topics for seminars.

The ACWL also conducts country-specific training courses on specific aspects of WTO law of interest to the requesting country. These training courses may also be provided by videoconference to officials in capital. The ACWL welcomes requests for these training courses.

## WHO MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE TRAINING ACTIVITIES?

Participation in training activities is, in principle, limited to government officials from developing country Members of the ACWL and LDCs.

In principle, the ACWL provides training only to the government officials of its developing country Members and LDCs. The ACWL has occasionally invited officials from other developing countries to its courses and seminars. Under the Secondment Programme, however, the ACWL can train only officials of countries entitled to the services of the ACWL. There is no fee for participation in any of the training activities of the ACWL.

All ACWL developing country Members and LDCs are regularly notified of the ACWL's training activities.

Every September, the ACWL sends out invitations for the regular eight-month training course. Invitations for the ACWL's occasional seminars are sent out about two weeks ahead of the event. The invitations are sent to missions and are not addressed to individuals. Information on the training activities is also posted on the ACWL's website. Government officials from developing country Members or LDCs may request the office administrators of the ACWL to include their names in the ACWL's mailing list.

# CONTACTING THE ACWL

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To contact an individual ACWL staff member, please use the standard email format: **name.surname@acwl.ch**. Emails for the Executive Director should be addressed to one of the office administrators. The ACWL's telephone number is +41 22 919 21 21 and its fax number is +41 22 919 21 22. You can contact us by email at info@acwl.ch.

## **Executive Director**

Mr. Niall Meagher

## **Deputy Directors\***

Mr. Leo Palma

Ms Cherise M. Valles

## **Senior Counsel\***

Mr. Jan Bohanes

Mr. Fernando Piérola

## **Counsel\***

Ms Maria Alcover

Ms Petina Gappah

Mr. Vitaliy Pogoretskyy

Mr. Alejandro Sanchez

## **Legal Assistant**

Ms Leah Buencamino

## **Senior Office Administrator**

Ms Carol Lau

## **Office Administrator**

Ms Pascale Colombo

\* in alphabetical order



The ACWL is located on the ground floor of the "Les Nations" building at 31-33 Avenue Giuseppe-Motta, two blocks from the main entry to the United Nations at the Place des Nations.

For visitors, there are two parking places at the rear of the building. As these parking places are often occupied, it is recommended that visitors consider using public transport.

From the WTO, take bus 11 in the direction "Bout-du-Monde" to the bus stop "Motta" (fourth stop).

From the stop "Cornavin" at the railway station, take bus 8 in the direction "OMS" to the bus stop "Motta" (fourth stop).

News and other information concerning the ACWL is available on its website at [www.acwl.ch](http://www.acwl.ch).



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